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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/506,361

05/16/2005

Erwin Weh

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1080

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EXAMINER

RIPLEY, JAY R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3679

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/02/2007

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 03/02/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/506,361	WEH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jay R. Ripley	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02/01/2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02/01/2007 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In view of Applicants' amendment filed on 02/01/2007, amendments to the claims have been entered. Claims 1-9 are pending.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 02/01/2007. These drawings are unacceptable.
3. The drawings are objected to because they have more than one figure with a common reference number, Figure 2, failing to comply with CFR 37§1.84(u), below.

(u) Numbering of views.

- (1) The different views must be numbered in consecutive Arabic numerals, starting with 1, independent of the numbering of the sheets and, if possible, in the order in which they appear on the drawing sheet(s). Partial views intended to form one complete view, on one or several sheets, must be identified by the same number followed by a capital letter. View numbers must be preceded by the abbreviation "FIG." Where only a single view is used in an application to illustrate the claimed invention, it must not be numbered and the abbreviation "FIG." must not appear.
- (2) Numbers and letters identifying the views must be simple and clear and must not be used in association with brackets, circles, or inverted commas. The view numbers must be larger than the numbers used for reference characters.

(CFR 37§1.84(u))

4. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing

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should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claim 1-9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

7. Claim 1 is indefinite as it recites, “transferring gaseous **and/or** liquid fluids” in line 1. The limitation of “and” is inclusive, indicating that the fluid transferred must be both gaseous and liquid simultaneously. The limitation of “or” is exclusive, indicating that the fluid transferred must be either gaseous or liquid.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

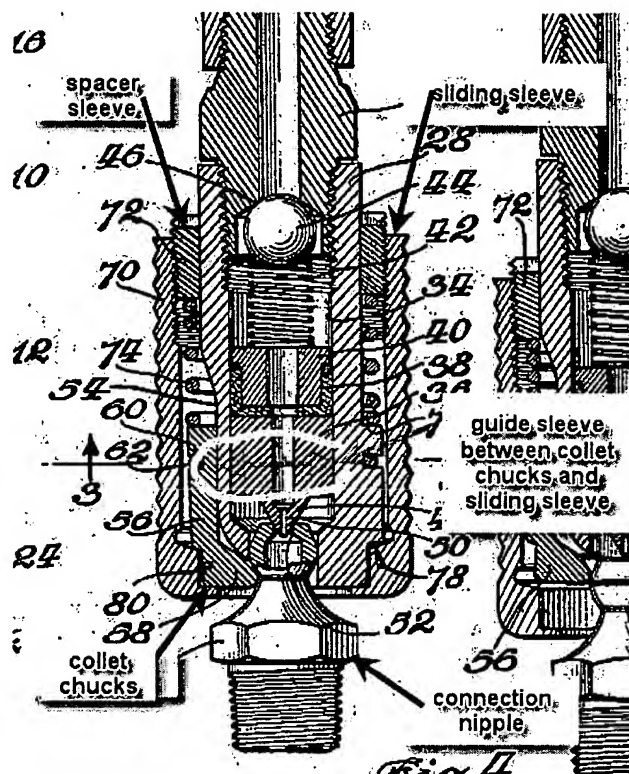
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

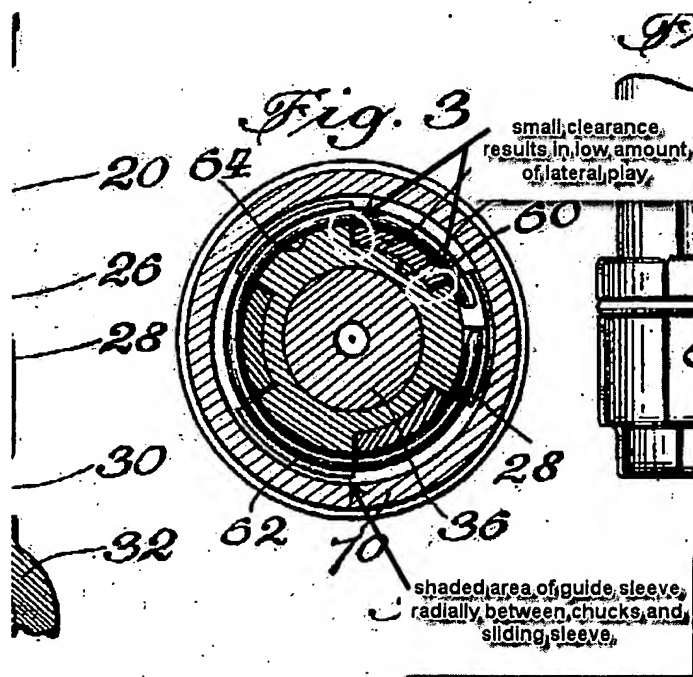
9. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Krannak (U.S. 2,070,013).

10. In regard to claim 1, Krannak in Figures 2 and 3, below, discloses a connection coupling comprising a sliding sleeve (70) for locking collet chucks (56) via a connection nipple (30), wherein a guide sleeve (28) with longitudinal grooves (54) is arranged between (radially) the sliding sleeve and the collet chucks in which the collet chucks are guided (column 2, lines 44-55 and column 3, lines 1-3).

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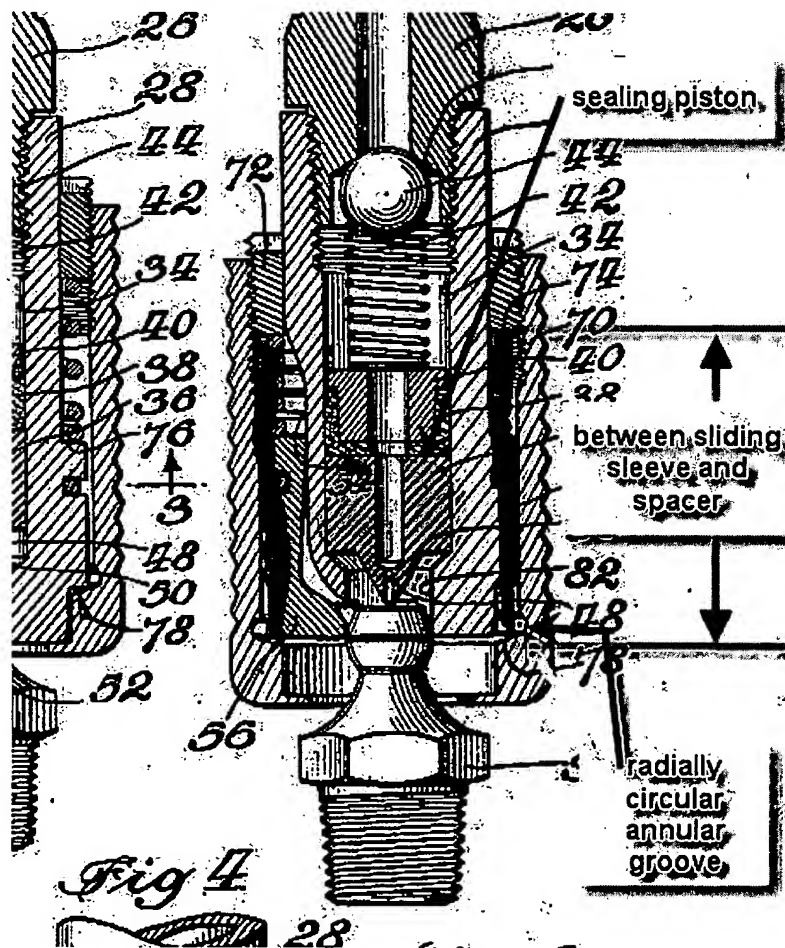
(Krannak Figure 2)



(Krannak Figure 3)

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11. In regard to claim 2, Krannak discloses a spacer sleeve (72 in Figure 2, above) that is exchangeably fit (the spacer can be unscrewed) into the sliding sleeve (column 3, lines 7-10).
12. In regard to claim 3, Krannak discloses, wherein the collet chucks are inserted into the longitudinal grooves with a low amount of lateral fitting play (as observed in Figure 3, above, there is little room for lateral play between the collet chocks and the guide sleeve due to observable low clearance between the chucks and guide sleeve).
13. In regard to claim 5, Krannak discloses a radially circular annular groove (as observed in Figure 5, shaded area, below) outside of the guide sleeve.



(Krannak Figure 5)

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14. In regard to claim 6, Krannak discloses that the annular groove is formed in a shoulder between the sliding sleeve (70) and a spacer sleeve (72) (as observed in Figure 5, above).

15. In regard to claim 9, Krannak provides that three collet chucks and three longitudinal grooves are provided in a 120-degree division in the guide sleeve (as observed in Figure 3, above).

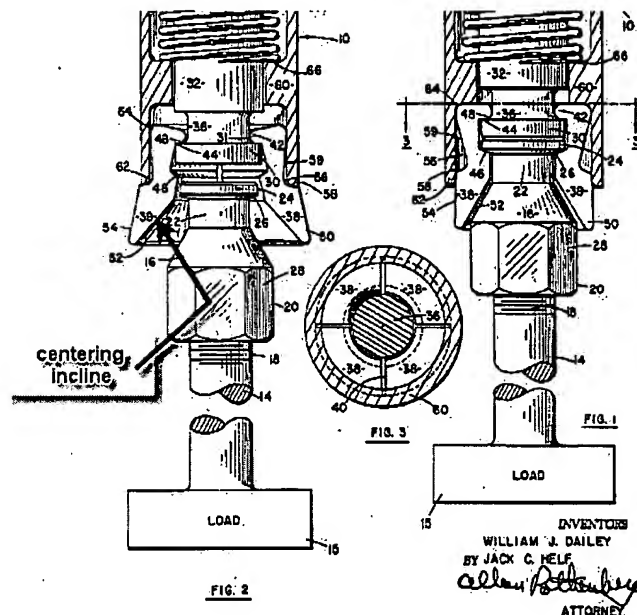
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krannak as applied to claims above, and in further view of Dailey et al (U.S. 3,240,520).

18. Krannak discloses the claimed invention except for a centering incline at its front end. Dailey et al teach in Figures 1-3, below, a connector coupling with chucks that have an internal truncated conical surface, i.e. a centering incline, to serve as a guide to facilitate the interconnection of the connection coupling components (column 3, lines 72-75, and column 4, lines 1-2). As Dailey et al relate to connection couplings, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a centering incline as taught by Dailey et al to the front end of Krannak's guide sleeve to serve as a guide to facilitate the interconnection of the connection coupling components.



(Dailey et al Figures 1-3)

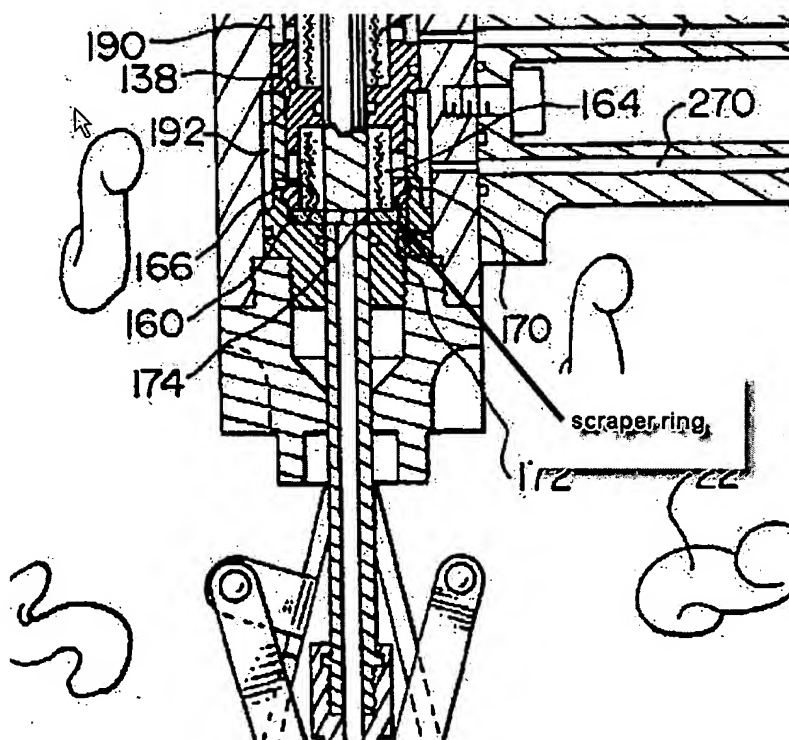
19. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krannak as applied to claims above, and further in view of Reiter (U.S. 6,202,383).

20. Krannak discloses the claimed invention except for providing for the use of at least one spring-type straight pin to exchangeably fasten the guide sleeve to a front housing part. Reiter teaches the use of a straight pin as an alternative to, or in addition to, screwed-connections to secure the components in a play-free manner (column 8, lines 3-9). As Reiter relates to securing nested tubular components, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute, or add to, the threaded connection as used by Krannak a straight pin as taught by Reiter to secure the components in a play-free manner.

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21. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krannak as applied to claims above, and further in view of Brown (U.S. 5,647,910).

22. Krannak discloses the claimed invention except for providing for a scraper ring. Brown in Figure 4, below, teaches a scraper ring (160) being positioned radially about a reciprocating member to scrape off any foreign matter adhering to the reciprocating member (column 8, lines 34-38). As Brown relates to reciprocating members, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Krannak's connection coupling with a scraper ring as taught by Brown around the sealing piston to scrape off any foreign matter adhering to the sealing piston as the device is operated.



(Brown Figure 4)

Response to Arguments

23. Applicant's arguments filed 02/01/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

24. The Applicant asserts that Krannak fails to disclose, "a guide sleeve... arranged *between* [a] sliding sleeve and... collet chocks in which the collet chucks are guided" in page 6, paragraph 2, lines 7-9. As indicated in the claim 1 rejection above, Krannak does disclose the aforementioned arrangement.

25. Further, it appears the Applicants are drawing upon a difference in terminology in regard to the prior art of Krannak as a basis for argument in page 6, paragraph 2, lines 1-5. Therefore, note that the "body (28)" of Krannak is the structural equivalent of the claimed subject matter; i.e. the guide sleeve. Anticipation does not require that the prior art reference disclosure be *in haec verba*. *In re Bode*, 550 F.2d 656, 660, 193 USPQ 12, 16 (CCPA 1977). In addition, it does not require that the prior art reference "teach" what the application at issue teaches. *Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 713 F.2d 760, 218 USPQ 781 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Finally, Applicant is reminded that during examination claim limitations are to be given their broadest reasonable reading. *In re Zletz*, 893 F.2d 319, 321, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Conclusion

26. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jay R. Ripley whose telephone number is 571-272-7535. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00AM - 3:00PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



J. R. Ripley
12 FEB 2007



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